no plan for the development of BHEL controlled airstrip at Haridwar into a regular airport.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since no airline company has requested AAI to introduce air service from/through Haridwar, AAI has no plan to develop airstrip at Haridwar into a regular airport. Further, Airlines plan their operations on the basis of their judgement on commercial and operational viability.

Privatisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports

10. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to privatise Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof including FDI and foreign partners; and

(c) what precautions have been taken to ensure national interest in traffic control and civil aviation security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Government has approved re-structuring of airports at New Delhi & Mumbai of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Joint Venture (JV) route.

(b) Action has been initiated to appoint a Financial Consultant to assist AAI in restructuring process. FDI and foreign partners will be known only after successful joint venture partners for Delhi and Mumbai airports are selected.

(c) Functions relating to Air Traffic Services and Civil Aviation Security shall continue to be performed by AAI and are not proposed to be assigned to Joint Venture Company.

IA's joint venutre with Singapore Airlines for ground handling

11. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has decided to tie up with Singapore Airlines to handle the ground handling business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines did not consider the offer from foreign airlines and their subsidiaries while taking a decision on joint venture in this regard and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Airlines and Singapore Airlines Terminal Services (SATS), a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, have decided to carry out a feasibility study to consider the possibility of setting up a joint venture company for ground handling services at Indian airports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposals were received for joint ventures from any other foreign airline or its subsidiary.

Concession to students of NE region

12. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the existing practice, students from the North-Eastern region get 50 per cent discount on travel between their home-States and Kolkata;

(b) whether it is a fact that students from this region have requested that discount on air journeys should be given to them between the airport nearest to the student's home and the airport nearest to their place of study; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider this request favourably and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) With effect from 7th July, 2003 Indian Airlines is offering 50% discount on Economy class and Point to Point fares to bonafide students between 12 and 26 years of age on the air travel between the hometown and the place of study. However, with effect from 1st October, 2003, this concession has been extended on the flights operating from points in the North-East to Kolkata and wee *versa* also when the sectors form a part of the journey permitted *i.e.* from the place of study to hometown.